

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 051451Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5004
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, LY
SUBJ: QADHAFI'S CURRENT VIEWS

1. PERHAPS MOST AUTHORITATIVE RECENT ACCOUNT OF LIBYAN LEADER QADHAFI'S CURRENT VIEWS WERE PROVIDED BY QADHAFI HIMSELF IN TV INTERVIEW WITH ISSUES AND ANSWERS MADE SHORTLY AFTER TRIPOLI SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN EARLY DECEMBER. EMBASSY, HAVING RECENTLY RECEIVED VIDEOTAPE OF INTERVIEW AND BEING UNCERTAIN AS TO HOW WIDELY IT WAS DISTRIBUTED, VENTURES FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON HIGHLIGHTS OF QADHAFI'S REMARKS.

2. QADHAFI RAISED HIS REJECTIONIST CREDENTIALS TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PEAK BY OBSERVING THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE ON GAZA STRIP WAS WEST BANK WOULD IN NO WAY BE CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO PROBLEM.

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SUCH AN ENTITY, HE WENT ON, COULD ONLY SERVE AS A BASE FOR FURTHER STRUGGLE TO ESTABLISH A TRULY FREE PALESTINE EXTENDING FROM THE RIVER JORDAN TO THE SEA IN WHICH NON-COLONIAL JEWS (THOSE WHO WERE THERE BEFORE 1947) AND PALESTINIANS COULD LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY. COLONEL ADDED THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THE REJECTIONIST STATES EVER AGREE TO MEET AN ISRAELI LEADER PARTICULARLY

"TERRORIST BEGIN."

3. COMMENTING ON EGYPT, QADHAFI PUT FORWARD HIS LIMITED ARAB SOVEREIGNTY THEORY. HE ARGUED THAT NEITHER SADAT NOR ANY ARAB LEADER WAS ENTITLED TO MAKE SEPARATE DECISIONS FOR HIS OWN COUNTRY WHICH WENT AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE ARAB NATION AS A WHOLE. HE DENIED ANY INTENTIONS OF SEEKING TO OVERTHROW SADAT ASSERTING THAT THERE WAS NO PROOF OF ANY SUCH ACTIVITY AND THAT ANY WAY THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE WOULD TAKE CARE OF IT.

4. QADHAFI REITERATED HIS HOSTILITY TOWARD THE US. HE DENIED CHARGES OF TERRORISM BY SAYING THAT US WAS LEADER OF WORLD TERRORISM. HE BOLSTERED THIS ASSERTION BY CLAIMING US THREATENED TO OCCUPY ARAB OIL FIELDS, REFUSED TO SELL FOOD TO POOR COUNTRIES AND MENACED THE WORLD WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN DISCUSSING PRESIDENT CARTER, QADHAFI SHOWED SOME RESTRAINT. IN RARE PUBLIC USE OF ENGLISH HE SAID HE WAS CONDEMNING US POLICIES AND NOT PRESIDENT CARTER WHOSE FUTURE POLICIES HE AWAITED.

5. MUCH OF FOREGOING HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY ATTRIBUTED TO QADHAFI BUT INTERVIEW PROVIDED DIRECT AND FRANK EXPRESSION OF LIBYAN LEADER'S CURRENT ATTITUDES.
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